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Report of the Annual Meeting

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Canadian National Parks Branch

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SOME HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC SITES OF CANADA

BY

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH

Considerable progress was made during the past year in connection with the acquisition, preservation and marking of historic sites of national importance throughout the Dominion recommended for action by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, which acts in an advisory capacity to the Department of the Interior with respect to this work.

A general meeting of the Board was held at which a number of sites under consideration were reviewed and a selection made therefrom for early attention.

The personnel of the Board was decreased by one member owing to the resignation of Dr. Victor Morin, representative of the Province of Quebec.

Over one hundred sites have already been brought to the attention of the Department and from these the Board to date have selected one hundred and forty-one as being of national importance and recommended them for commemoration. The control of eighty-five of these has already been obtained.

A summary of what has been accomplished to date follows:—

SITES MARKED

In addition to the twenty-four sites previously marked (*see Canadian Historical Association Report, 1924, pages 93-108*) the following were commemorated during last year:—

MARITIME PROVINCES

Halifax, N.S. (First Printing Press).

A tablet was placed in the central lobby of the Province House at Halifax to commemorate the First Printing Press in Canada, which was established nearby in 1751, by Bartholomew Green, Junior, and who was later succeeded by John Bushell. On it was printed March 23rd, 1752, Canada's first newspaper "The Halifax Gazette," later known as the "Nova Scotia Royal Gazette," which has since been regularly issued. The tablet was unveiled by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province on December 20th, 1924, with suitable ceremonies arranged for by the Nova Scotia Historical Society.

Halifax, N.S. (First Royal Dockyard).

A tablet was placed on one of the original pillars in His Majesty's Dockyard at Halifax to mark the site of the First Royal Dockyard in British North America. Captain James Cook, the famous navigator, was stationed here in 1759 and superintended the erection of the first buildings. Sir Provo Wallis, admiral of the fleet was born here. This dockyard proved of special importance during the American Wars of 1775-1781 and 1812-14. It also played a prominent part in the Great War of 1914-18. The tablet was unveiled on August 19th, 1924, by Sir James Ferguson, Vice-Admiral of the British North Atlantic Squadron, with suitable ceremonies arranged for by the Nova Scotia Historical Society.

QUEBEC

Fort Crevier, at Notre Dame de Pierreville.

A cairn and tablet, enclosed with a suitable design of fence, were erected on a small plot of land immediately adjacent to the main road passing through the village of Notre Dame de Pierreville, donated by Mr. Ubald Deschenaux, to

commemorate the site of the fort erected in 1687 at the mouth of the St. Francis River and of the battles which took place there in 1689-1693, during which several of the soldiers and inhabitants were killed, including Seigneur Crevier. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Battle of Odelltown, at Odelltown.

A cairn memorial and fence were erected on a small plot of land, immediately adjacent to the King Edward highway and in front of the Methodist church, to commemorate the engagements which took place there on the 7th and 9th November, 1838, between the rebel invaders and the Loyal Militia of Canada. The church served as a fort during the above battles. A small trophy cannon, which was captured and actually used for the defence of the church, was donated to the Department and mounted on a base near the memorial. The unveiling and dedication ceremonies were carried out on August 20th, 1924. Part-time caretaker appointed.

ONTARIO

Ernestown Shipyard, near Bath.

A cairn, tablet and fence were erected on a small plot of land, immediately adjacent to the Montreal-Toronto highway at Finkle's Point, which was donated by Mr. Thomas Wesley Thompkins. Here was built and launched on September 7th, 1816, the *Frontenac*, the first steamboat to navigate Lake Ontario. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on October 30th, 1924, in accordance with arrangements made by the Lennox and Addington Historical Society. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Port Stanley.

A cairn and tablet were erected on a site provided by the municipal authorities of the village of Port Stanley, at the intersection of Bridge, Main, St. Joseph and Colborne Streets, to commemorate the several outstanding events associated with the early history of that place. The first settler was John Bostwick in 1804. Among early visitors were: Louis Jolliet, 1669; Dollier and Galinée, 1670; the Celeron Expedition, 1749; Sir William Johnson, 1761; Colonel Thomas Talbot, 1801, and Lord Stanley, 1824. General Brock's expedition encamped on the beach, August 9th, 1812, on its way to Detroit. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on August 5th, 1924, in accordance with arrangements made by the Elgin Historical Society.

Old Welland Canal, Allanburg.

A cairn and tablet were erected on a small plot of land adjacent to the Canboro Road, near the new bridge, to commemorate the turning of the first sod of the Old Welland Canal, November 30th, 1824, by George Keefer. This was the initial step which led to the furnishing of the present canal system between Lakes Erie and Ontario. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on November 29th, 1924, in accordance with arrangements made by the St. Catherines Chamber of Commerce.

WESTERN CANADA

Batoche, Sask.

A cairn and tablet were erected, with the permission of La Corporation Episcopale Catholique Romaine de Prince Albert, at Batoche to commemorate the events which took place there during the North West Rebellion. Its capture from the rebels by General Middleton after four days' fighting, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th May, 1885, ended the Rebellion.

Cutknife Battlefield, near Cutknife, Sask.

A cairn, tablet and fence were erected on a small plot of land on the summit of Cutknife Hill, within the Reserve, donated by the Indians, to commemorate the engagement which took place there on May 2nd, 1885, during the North West

Rebellion, between Government troops under Colonel Otter and Indian rebels under Chief Poundmaker, whose junction with another rebel chief, Big Bear, it was desired to frustrate. When this object had been attained, Colonel Otter returned to Battleford, with a loss of eight killed and fourteen wounded.

Battleford, Sask.

A cairn and tablet were erected, with the permission of the municipal authorities, in a small park facing 24th Street to commemorate the events which took place there during the North West Rebellion. Here on May 26th, 1885, after the Battle of Batoche and the capture of Riel, Poundmaker, the rebel Chief, and his band surrendered to General Middleton.

Frog Lake Massacre, near Frog Lake, Alta.

A cairn and a commemorative tablet were erected in the old cemetery plot situated on the N.E. quarter of section 10, township 56, range 5, west of the Fourth meridian, the control of which has been acquired for historic memorial purposes. Here are buried the victims of the massacre at Frog Lake, April 2nd, 1885, at the hands of rebel Indians under the command of Big Bear, during the North West Rebellion.



OLD CARIBOO WAGON ROAD, B.C.

Fort Yale, at Yale, B.C.

A boulder and tablet were erected on a small plot of land facing Douglas Street which was donated by Mrs. A. Revsbeck. Here began the Cariboo Wagon Road which extended four hundred miles to the northward to the gold mines of Cariboo. Built in 1862-5. In the golden days of Cariboo, over this great highway, passed thousands of miners and millions of treasure.

Prince George, B.C.

A cairn and tablet were erected on a small plot of land on First Avenue, with permission of the municipal authorities, near the station, to commemorate the services of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the first white man to cross the Rocky Mountains and reach the Pacific Coast, who passed this spot, westward bound, in his canoe with nine companions, June 19th, 1793.

Prospect Point, Vancouver, B.C.

A cairn and tablet were erected in Stanley Park, with permission of the municipal authorities, to commemorate the historic events connected with the steamer *Beaver* which was wrecked on the west coast thereof, July 26th, 1888. This historic vessel was built for the Hudson's Bay Company at Blackwall, England, in 1835, sailed for the west coast immediately and was the pioneer steamship on the Pacific Ocean. The story of the *Beaver* is the story of the early development of the western coast of Canada.

Fort Langley, Langley, B.C.

A cairn and tablet were erected, on a small plot of land obtained from the municipal authorities, to mark the first trading post on the Pacific Coast of Canada, built in 1827 by the Hudson's Bay Company. Destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1840. The scene of the first agriculture and the first fishery in British Columbia. The birthplace of the colony of British Columbia, 19th day of November, 1858. An area of three acres, on which is situated one of the original buildings, has been transferred to the Department. Repairs to prevent further deterioration were carried out on this old structure.

Nootka Sound, Friendly Cove, B.C.

Discovered by Captain James Cook in March, 1778. In June 1789, Spain took possession and established and maintained a settlement until 1795. The capture of British vessels, in 1789, almost led to war, which was averted by the Nootka Convention, 1790. Vancouver and Quadra met here in August, 1792, to determine the land to be restored under that Convention. A cairn and tablet were erected on a small plot of land donated by the Indians. The memorial was unveiled on August 13th, 1924, by His Honour, Walter C. Nichol, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, with suitable ceremonies arranged for by His Honour, Judge F. W. Howay, of New Westminster.



NOOTKA SOUND, FRIENDLY COVE, B.C.

ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF SITES

The following action was taken in regard to the acquisition of other historic properties recommended for commemoration by the Board and for the preservation of monuments and structures already administered by the Department.

MARITIME PROVINCES

Fort Edward, Windsor, N.S.

An area of 20.59 acres included in the site, exclusive of the blockhouse and the remains of the entrenchments, ramparts and the plot of land on which it is proposed to erect a memorial, was leased to the Windsor Golf Club. The charred ruins of the old officers' quarters were demolished, the well filled in and the site generally cleaned up.

Fort Meductic, near Woodstock, N.B.

Permission was obtained from the Provincial Government for the erection of a cairn and tablet, on the edge of the highway from Woodstock to Meductic, to commemorate the site of Fort Meductic, erected at Intervale Point on the St. John River. This was the chief Maliseet stronghold in Acadia in the 17th and 18th centuries and occupied by them until the middle of the 19th century. Near it was the site of an old Indian church erected by the French, in 1717.

Bathurst, N.B. (Nicolas Denys).

The town of Bathurst has executed a lease of occupation covering a site, at the intersection of Murray and Main Streets, on which it is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the services of Nicolas Denys, author and naturalist.

Battle of the Restigouche, Campbellton, N.B.

The town of Campbellton has executed a lease of occupation covering a site in Riverside Park, on which it is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the naval battle which took place in the Restigouche River, between French and English squadrons, in the spring of 1760.

Fort Cumberland, N.B., about four miles from Amherst, N.S.

Considerable improvements were carried out on the area acquired for memorial purposes, including the construction of a flight of stone steps up the embankment from the main entrance to the cairn, the restoration of a portion of the old magazine and the placement of two cannons mounted on concrete bases, one on each side of the memorial. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on July 16th, 1924, in accordance with arrangements made by J. C. Webster, M.D., Edinburgh, etc. The placing of an additional tablet, in French, on the existing memorial will be carried out this summer.

QUEBEC

Fort Chambly, at Chambly.

Repairs were carried out on the massive walls of the old fort to prevent further deterioration and the caretaker's quarters renovated. A memorial shrine was erected in the centre of the old cemetery, base of a sundial built, paths laid out and gravelled and the whole plot generally improved. The site of the proposed auto park was filled in and levelled and general improvements made to the picnic grounds. The Daughters of the American Revolution were granted permission to erect a boulder and tablet in the old cemetery to the memory of General John Thomas, who died and was buried there during the American occupation of the fort and a site was laid out for that purpose. A tablet will be placed on the shrine this summer.

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, St. Paul.

Further preservation and restoration work was carried out on the several buildings located on the site including repairs to masonry, replacement of windows, painting of roofs, laying of floors, etc. Additional show cases, tables and shelves were constructed in the museum and several articles of rare interest obtained and displayed. A fire engine and hose and fire extinguishers were installed for the protection of the buildings and site generally. Wells were drilled on the site with a view to obtaining a domestic water supply. The popularity of the fort is evident by the increased number of tourists who visited the site last year.

Fort Richelieu, at Sorel.

Built by Pierre de Saurel, in July, 1665, and proved an important defence post against the attacks of the Iroquois. The Canada Steamship Company have transferred a plot of land 25 feet square, on which a boulder and tablet will be erected.

Fort de Longueuil, at Longueuil.

Built in 1689-90, as an outpost against the Iroquois. Garrisoned in 1775 and demolished in 1810. Permission has been obtained to place a tablet on the wall of the Roman Catholic Church, facing St. Charles Street, which now occupies the site of the original fort.

Fort Charlesbourg Royal, Cap Rouge.

Built in 1541, by Jacques Cartier, who wintered there before returning to France the next year. Occupied during the winters of 1542-43, by Roberval. Abandoned in 1545. A plot of land, immediately adjacent to the public highway at the entrance of Cap Rouge River, has been transferred from the Department of Railways and Canals, on which it is proposed to erect a cairn, tablet and fence.

Tadoussac.

The municipal authorities have granted permission to erect a boulder and tablet to commemorate the several historic events associated with that place, on a plot of land immediately in front of the old Church, which is one of the most important in the early history of Canada.

Battle of Coulée Groulx, Riviere des Prairies.

Site of battle of July 2nd, 1690, between the French and the Iroquois. A plot of land 25 feet square, immediately adjacent to the Riviere des Prairies highway, has been donated by Mr. Joseph Lajeunesse, on which it is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet.

Fort Maisonneuve (Point Calliere), Montreal.

Permission was obtained from the Department of Public Works to place a tablet at the entrance to the Customs Building to mark the site of the old fort which was built on this spot in May, 1642.

ONTARIO

Fort Wellington, Prescott.

Extensive repairs were carried out on the buildings located on the site including shingling and painting of blockhouse, guardhouse, latrines and officers' quarters. The guardhouse was renovated and a museum created therein. Full-time caretaker appointed. The site was visited last year by over five thousand people.



MURNEY TOWER, MACDONALD PARK, KINGSTON, ONTARIO.

Murney Tower, Macdonald Park, Kingston.

The control of the site, comprising .33 of an acre, on which the above tower is situated, was obtained from the Department of National Defence. The Kingston Historical Society's request for a lease of the tower for museum purposes was granted.

Fort William.

Site of an old Hudson's Bay Company magazine, the turning of the first sods of the C.P.R. and G.T.P., and the arrival of the first shipment of grain from the west, in 1883. The city authorities have consented to provide a site, in Heath Park, on which to erect a cairn and tablet.

Fort Nottawasaga, near Stayner.

Site of blockhouse built in 1814, by Lieut-Col. Robert McDouall and destroyed by enemy forces August 13th, 1814. A new fort was built in 1816, which was garrisoned until 1818, when the troops were withdrawn to Penetanguishene. A plot of land 25 feet square, was obtained by a lease of occupation from Mr. W. H. McLean, near the hotel at Wasaga Beach. Erection of boulder and tablet proposed.

Port Talbot, near Wallacetown.

Site of residence of Colonel Thomas Talbot, who, in May, 1803, began there the famous Talbot settlement. In the War of 1812 he was Colonel in command of the London district. The Dunwich township council have consented to provide a site on the south side of Talbot road just west of Talbot creek. Cairn and tablet proposed.

Glengarry Landing, near Edenvale.

The Simcoe county council have granted permission for the erection of an inscribed stone marker, on the edge of the main travelled road near Edenvale bridge, to commemorate the site of Glengarry Landing, two miles upstream, where Col. Robert McDouall built the flotilla of boats with which he effected the relief of the British garrison at Fort Michilmackinac, in May, 1814.

WESTERN CANADA

Selkirk Settlement, Point Douglas, Winnipeg, Man.

Headquarters of the first British Settlement west of the Great Lakes until taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1834. The city of Winnipeg have provided a site for the erection of a memorial near the bank of the Red River and adjacent to Victoria Park.

Forts Rouge, Gibraltar and the two Fort Garrys, Winnipeg.

Permission was obtained from the Winnipeg Parks Board for the placing of a tablet on the gateway of Fort Garry to commemorate the sites of Fort Rouge, established by de la Verandrye in 1738; Fort Gibraltar, built by the North West Company in 1804; Old Fort Garry built in 1821 and the building of Lower Fort Garry.

Gonzales Hill, Oak Bay, B.C.

The Municipal Council of the Corporation of Oak Bay have consented to provide a site on the summit of Gonzales Hill, on which it is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the several explorations of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, 1787-92.

Kamloops, B.C.

The city have executed a lease covering a plot of land 25 feet square, in Riverside Park, on which to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the Pioneer Fur Traders, who, by establishing themselves in this locality, aided in securing the country for Great Britain.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following sites have been deemed by the Board to be of national importance and recommended for commemoration:—

- Louisbourg, N.S.
- Battle of Grand Pré, N.S.
- First Post Office in British North America, Halifax, N.S.
- King's College, Windsor, N.S.
- Fort La Have, N.S.
- Fort La Tour, St. John, N.B.
- Fort Nashwaak, N.B.
- Village of Hochelaga, at Montreal, P.Q.
- Battle of de Repentigny, near Charlemagne, P.Q.
- Second Battle of Chateauguay and Blockhouse, near Allan's Corners, P.Q.
- Battle of Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, P.Q.
- Battle of Lacolle, at Lacolle, P.Q.
- Madeleine de Vercheres, at Vercheres, P.Q.
- Fort St. John, near St. John, P.Q.
- Fort Ste. Therese, near St. John, P.Q.
- Three Rivers Platon and Fort, Three Rivers, P.Q.
- Gaspé, P.Q. (Landing Place of Jacques Cartier).
- Battle of the Cedars, near Cedars, P.Q.
- Fort Coteau du Lac, Coteau du Lac, P.Q.
- Valcartier, P.Q.
- Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ont.
- Point au Baril, Maitland, Ont.
- Fort Cataracqui or Frontenac, Kingston, Ont.
- Fort de Levis, Chimney Island, near Cardinal, Ont.
- St. Raphael, Ont. (Bishop Alexander Macdonell).
- Ottawa, Ont. (Rideau Canal).
- Southwold Earthworks, near St. Thomas, Ont.
- Mission of Ste. Marie I, near Midland, Ont.
- Vrooman's Battery, near Queenston, Ont.
- Tete du Pont Battery, near Chippewa, Ont.
- Weishuhn's Redoubt, near Willoughby, Ont.
- Navy Island Shipyard, near Chippewa, Ont.
- Point Pelee, Ont.
- Chatham, Ont. (Action at house of Thomas McCrea, 1812).
- Nanticoke, Ont.
- Battle of the Longwoods, near Wardsville, Ont.
- Battle of York, Toronto.
- Sandwich, Ont.
- Port Dover, Ont. (Starting Point of Brock's Expedition, 1812).
- Point de Meuron, near Fort William, Ont.
- Port Arthur, Ont.
- Duck Lake Battlefield, near Carleton, Sask.
- Fish Creek Battlefield, near Rosthern, Sask.
- Fort Cumberland, Cumberland House, Sask.
- Fort Macleod, Macleod, Alta.
- Fort Augustus, near Edmonton, Alta.
- New Westminster, B.C.
- Fort Kamloops, Kamloops, B.C.
- Nanaimo, B.C.
- Barkerville, B.C.
- Bella Coola, B.C. (Sir Alexander Mackenzie's farthest point west).